

Year End Care Committee Report 2018

Deacons

In 2018 the board of Deacons was reduced from 2017 levels of 15 members to 14. Deacon zones were redrawn so that each Deacon supported 18-19 families. The Deacons accepted the new zone assignments with grace.

Each month, Deacon training was led by various deacons & elders providing programs on the procedures and tools of deaconship. This complimented spiritual training provided by Pastor Helen DeLeon. In January of 2018, the Deacons agreed to return to monthly meetings with a hiatus in the months of June & July. Deacons were then organized into groups of three to provide better coverage of zones, should a Deacon be unavailable or needed assistance with their zone.

ICU baskets at St. Johns were regularly replenished by the Deacons with the generosity of WPC members who provided the items needed. 2018 saw an increase in the number of items provided, helping more families. Deacons also assisted with blood drives, special events and activities as needed. Deacons prepared the Communion elements for the first Sunday of every month, special communions throughout the year and provided communion to members at home, who were unable to attend services.

Deacons assisted in celebration of life receptions for members and family members and appreciated all WPC members who contributed their time, food and talents to provide for the families. With the knowledge that the Board of Deacons would be reduced to 12 members in 2019, a committee was formed to review & develop new procedures for memorial services to provide a standard of care with fewer deacon board members. The new plan was adopted by the Board of Deacons and implemented in December 2018.

Deacons also participated in providing news to their zones, assistance with transportation and a compassionate presence to those in need.

Senior Ministry

The Senior Ministry team hosted a number of Senior Luncheons throughout 2018 with guest speakers talking on topics ranging from Nutrition, Challenges in Later Life to the history of Armand Bayou. Average attendance at each luncheon was 40 participants.

Mental Health Ministry

In March of 2018, a group led by Pastor Helen formed the first Mental Health Ministry Committee at WPC. The committee dedicated itself to finding a structure that supports a sustainable mental health ministry. A vision and mission statement were created. The committee seeks to help provide spiritual care, professional referrals, resources and education to facilitate health and well-being for those who struggle with mental health issues and for their families. Area providers and professionals were interviewed, contract for care with area professionals were set up, a small grant for funding of care was received, the ReMind group for depression and bipolar and Smart Recovery groups were implemented and a speaker was provided to one of the senior luncheons.

GriefShare

GriefShare is a curriculum that helps those who have experienced loss, to work in groups, to help understand the process of grief and ways to cope. Two classes were offered in 2018 with GriefShare for Spouses in October and GriefShare for the Holidays in November.

Jamee Wilson & Sandy Dwyer
Care Committee Elders